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news release

For Immediate Release
30 January 1995

Contact: Kerry Abelson
(202) 225-2531

DE LA GARZA ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR COLONIAS WASTEWATER PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman Kika de la Garza of Texas today announced that the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) will receive an additional \$157,344 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help Hidalgo County cities finance essential planning and engineering for their Colonias Wastewater Treatment Assistance Program. This grant builds on the \$149,256 awarded in FY 94 for a total of \$306,600 in municipal planning funds.

These engineering planning grants are particularly important because local cities simply do not have the funds to hire engineers and conduct the advance planning necessary for such a large construction project. The cities of McAllen, Mission and Hidalgo have already begun the TWDB application process to receive these Colonia Assistance and Management Support monies. The cities will use the grants to find the best way of connecting the colonias located south of Highway 83 into the existing municipal wastewater treatment systems.

"There's no point in having the funds to build a large public works project without also having the ability to think ahead a bit on the best way to go about it," said de la Garza. "I'm pleased to have worked with the EPA to get these additional funds for Hidalgo County," he added.

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